



# ***Transition CoP Advisory Council Meeting Minutes***

**September 17, 2015**

One correction on the minutes in June – Dickinson, ND is spelled wrong.

**Attending:** Jeff Anderson, Erik Anthony, Dan Juve, Cheryl Hess, Barb Burghart, Staci Daihley, Darcy Severson, Tonya Hertel, Tammie Johnson, Ruth Lacher, Dawn Paulsrud, Karla Sundhagen, Amy Armstrong, Brianne Skachenko, Joan Karpenko, Angie Jones, Chantel Zeller, Bette Nelson, Kyle Peterson, Mary Robinson, Laura Mildenerger, Summer Ibach, Carol Lybeck, Karen Nickel, Mari Wanzek, Vickay Gross, Dawn Pearson, Zanthia Hagle-Price, Nicole Strand, Judy Garber, Debra Huber, Shawn Huss, Lynn Dodge, Brian Osvold, Amy Osvold, Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Matt McCleary, Heather Peterson, Gerry Teevens, and Laurie Skadsem.

**Mission reviewed:** To work towards building, supporting, and sustaining community partnerships and systems that promote and improve the scope, opportunity and quality for youth with disabilities to adequately prepare for life

## **ND Transition CoP:**

- CoP continues the Advisory Council as a state team and adds a new and ongoing connections to regional teams.
- The membership on this council is actively involved in sharing practices and working on transition issues for students with disabilities with those in other agencies and family members across the state.

**Federal Partners in Transition Releases 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan** – It is a plan where all the objectives should be in place by the year 2020.

**FPT vision:** “The vision is that all youth programs are based on universal design principals so that youth, regardless of their individual challenges, including disability, are equipped to pursue a self-directed pathway to address their interests, aspiration, and goals across all transition domains, including community engagement, education, employment, health and independent living that will ultimately result in positive everyday social inclusion.”

## **2015 Secondary Transition Interagency Conference**

- November 18 &19
- Ramada Hotel

- Vendor fee is \$50.00
- Registration fee is \$75.00
- October 12 is the deadline for conference registration
- Hotel deadline is October 21 for the state rate
- The Keynote Speakers include:
  - Melinda Jacobs – Disability Law
  - T. Marni Voss – Humorist and Motivation
  - Mallory Cyr – Health Transitions
  - Employment Related Speaker –Steve Wooderson
  - Mark Coppin - AT and Transition
  - Stephen Hinkle - Self Advocate
  - National Center on Technical Assistance for Transition

Gerry handed out the agenda for the breakout sessions. There are still booth spaces available but please get them in soon. There is money available for stipends for the conference through the ND DD Council, and possibly VR and FVND.

**NTAT Intensive TA Grant: ND received an intensive TA grant from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition**

- **Improve outcomes for SWD, esp. those for SSIP Focus Population**
- **Identify EBPPs for pre-employment transition (PET) services**
- **Provide PET and work experiences especially in rural areas**
- **Use data to promote systemic change & improve Indicators 1,2, 13,14 and the five WIOA activities**
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#### **National Transition Conference:**

**2015 State Plan Proposed Goals and Objectives** – Gerry asked the group to review and make comments regarding making changes, or additions.

**Student Focused Planning Goal:** Increase student and youth engagement in transition planning tasks.

#### **Objectives:**

- Conduct youth survey to gather student perspective on what's working and what is not working in the transition process.
- Identify ways to increase participation of youth on advisory committees.

Student-led IEP's was suggested as a good starting point for self-advocacy training and should be strongly encouraged. It was a consensus that the younger that this is started the better for the student and professionals.

**Interagency Collaboration Goal:** Increase per-employment services for youth with disabilities.

#### **Objectives:**

- Organize a task force to identify and implement a pre-employment transition curriculum.
- Identify evidence based practices to keep students engaged.

**Family Involvement Goal:** Increase understanding of guardianship and alternatives to guardianship amongst transition stakeholders.

**Objective:**

- Complete guide to guardianship for ND

**Membership Updates and Sharing:**

VR – Barb has a PowerPoint on WIOA.

DD Council – There is money set aside for consumers to get the chance to attend continuing education opportunities. They also have some smaller grants and these are on their website. The Council will be hosting an Employment and a Health conference next year some time.

Standing Rock VR – Handed out brochures entitled “Transition: Part of Your Journey”

Children’s Special Health Services – Passed around some brochures entitled “ND Autism Spectrum Disorder Database” for Providers and for Families. Data base should be up and going soon. Check their website for the types of screenings they can do.

ND Job Service – They are working on the changes for them that came about as part of the WIOA. The regulations should be out in the spring. Their focus now is the out-of-school youth.

NDCPD – 5 students are enrolled in the A-STEP program this school year. They have applied for a grant for additional funding. [www.ndcpd.org/astep](http://www.ndcpd.org/astep) ASPIRE is looking for youth 14-16 for this program. They have 37 youth involved right now. [www.aspirewest.org](http://www.aspirewest.org)

Pathfinder Parent Center – The center has a new training called “Unpacking the IEP” that they are available to do. They are also doing the transition trainings across the state on the ASPIRE program. Contact Cathy at Pathfinder Parent Center for more information on these trainings.

FVND – Is scheduling their evening calls. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Halloween and they will be doing a Sensory Santa during the Christmas season.

Guardianship – Please contact Catholic Charities if you have any questions on the new policies regarding Guardianship.

Lake Region Special Education – They have many opportunities for professional development in this region. October 12 they will be having a training at the College called “All Kids Can Succeed” regarding social skills training. [www.lrse-nd.org](http://www.lrse-nd.org) under resources, pd (professional development). Registration is online and costs \$10.

Dakota Center for Independent Living – Looking at their new goals for the coming year.

ND School for the Deaf – Carol Liebeck talked about Deaf Awareness week which is the last week in September. October 9 and 10 there will be a workshop in Devils Lake at ND School for the Deaf on students with hearing loss. The registration (\$25) is on their website.

West Fargo – Has steadily gained students all the time. They are reporting the students with disabilities population is the school growing at the rate of approx. 100 student per year.

Fargo Public Schools – They are completing a pilot project working with youth that do not have to be VR eligible

CLS – They work closely with the Fargo Public Schools to provide transition services.

P&A – The focus right now is the students who have graduated but are not yet 21. They would like this to be formally addressed if possible.

Peace Garden Special Ed/Northern Plains – Social Groups are provided in the rural areas

Dinner talks have been going very well. They bring the parents into the schools, give them a meal, have door prizes, and give informational talks. They are done in the spring and fall.

VR – The annual VR conference October 14 -16 in Grand Forks at the Canad Inn. The registrations and booth information is on their website.

DD Council - Small grant opportunities are available now. Focus groups will be in July and August – information will be coming.

Autism conference - It is October 21-23 at the Ramada Inn in Fargo.

Federation of Families – The Photo Voice project will now be on display in the Bismarck in the ND State Capital.

Anne Carlsen Center – is a Community Provider for VR now. They are developing an employment program in Jamestown, and Grand Forks first but will be moving across the state wherever we have offices. The GRASP assessment (vocational, situational assessment typically for students with significant needs) is available anywhere in the state. This summer was very successful for the recreational events that were held. 2016 ACC will be offering **Zot Artz for All** in 2 locations, and **ICan Bike Camps** in Fargo/Moorhead and Minot. Annie's House is making some changes with Program Coordination so if you want to schedule a trip there this fall or winter, contact Laurie Skadsem 701.368.9435. Check out the website for more information on upcoming events. [www.annecarlsen.org](http://www.annecarlsen.org)

**18-21 year old program Task Force was suggested.** The group had this discussion:

Needs	Strengths
Rural communities need more help to develop this program.	Some rural communities are doing well with their transition programs.
Those students with an emotional disability or physical challenge rarely stay in school after 18 even if graduating with an unsigned diploma.	Good programs in place for the students with intellectual disabilities in some schools.
Programs for students with autism need more services at 18 – 21.	A-STEP is a post-secondary is for 18-21 year old students with intellectual disabilities. They could stay on their IEP or not.
It would be helpful for DD services to start before 21. Have flexibility for the team.	VR can provide services now before age 21.
DD has concerns regarding the schools dropping the students at the age of 18 regardless of if they are appropriate to stay in school until 21.	Crossroads program in Minot is working well. They are doing social skills training and work or volunteer work.
Criteria to move on needs to be developed.	

Students on the autism spectrum and mental health issues have a hard time to find services.	
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### **Practice Group (Sub-Committee) Updates:**

**Youth Leadership** – Youth Leadership conference went well this summer. They are still trying to improve attendance at the conference. “Launch My Life” website was discussed in hopes to see more utilization. The youth survey results were discussed and how to expand this to the students that are presently in school. Matt will send out the Survey Monkey again to get more feedback from the survey.

**Guardianship** – The group decided to use the resource guide from Missouri entitled “MO Guardianship: Understanding Your Options and Alternatives”. This will be explored at our next meeting. Training is planned to go along with the guide when finished.

**Employment** – The manual was passed out for review. The group was invited to use what they need. Gerry asked if there would be some folks to make the edits. Kyle Peterson, Zanthia Hegle-Price, Jennifer Sick, Darcy Severson, and Heather Peterson had offered to make the edits and bring back their recommendations.

**Health Transitions** – The Health Snapshot guide is being used. Gerry will send out the contact information and cost to get these printed. Gerry suggested to have a speaker come to our December meeting and then focus on a topic.

**Transition Flow Chart** – It was suggested to make a flow chart for transition. It was recommended to add a Regional guide so it shows how the regions are divided. Will discuss this at our next meeting.

### **Regional CoPs Updates:**

Region I: Discussed WIOA and GED’s at the last meeting. This group is trying to find a direction and goals.

Region II: This group meets monthly. There is good attendance for the meetings. A speaker will be coming October 2 at 10 AM on “Handicap This” at Minot State University – Ann Nicole Nelson hall. Call NDCPD to reserve a spot if you are interested.

Region III: A sub-group met and reviewed the Career Fair and made recommendations for the coming year.

Region IV: Focused on getting ready for the coming year.

Region V: Meets monthly at Freedom Resource Center. They have speakers come to give program updates.

Region VI: Meets quarterly 10 AM to 2 PM after the Advisory Council meetings. At the last meeting we decided divide up in sub-groups to focus regional needs such as transportation for the transition programs during their community work sessions, the summer work program for 2016, and other areas that could be incorporated into the schools for transition. Another sub-group is scheduling a meeting to organize the 2016 Health, Trades and Technology Career Fair in Jamestown. This will be held at the Jamestown Civic Center in November 2016.

Region VII: Meet quarterly and meet at different locations. They don't have any specific goals at this time.

Region VIII: Working on organization and goals for the year for this Regional group.



**Next Meeting is December 16**

